

Subcommittee on Spatial Water Data

Meeting Details:

Date/Time: May 22, 2015, 1:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern Time

Location: Teleconference only (administered from USGS Headquarters, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20192)

Conference Line: (760) 569-6000 Code 1063271#

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Meeting number: 716 325 658

Shared document space:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B877MDsx9plFTmpocGE1d0M4TVE&authuser=0>

Agenda

All Times Eastern Time Zone

- 1:00 - 1:10 Introductions for new attendees
- 1:10 - 1:40 Discussion (see four topics below)
- 1:40 - 2:10 Work Group Reports
- 2:10 - 2:20 New Issues
- 2:20 - 2:30 Membership roster; Adjourn

Attendees:

Returning (attended 8/28/14 or later meeting)

Ed Clark, NOAA, edward.clark@noaa.gov

Wendy Norton, USGS, wenorton@usgs.gov

Patrick Lambert, WestFAST (Liaison, USGS), patlambert@wswc.utah.gov

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Dwane Young, U.S. EPA, young.dwane@epa.gov

Pete Steeves, USGS, psteeves@usgs.gov

Jeff Simley, USGS, jdsimley@usgs.gov

Angela Adams, Reclamation, aadams@usbr.gov

David Blodgett, USGS, dblodgett@usgs.gov

Jim Kreft, USGS, jkreft@usgs.gov

Terra Haxton, U.S. EPA, haxton.terra@epa.gov

David Maidment, Univ. of Texas, maidment@utexas.edu (I will be at the ESRI Conference)

Items of Interest or Note:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/05/04/noaa-s-data-heads-clouds>

Discussion

- Should we think about hosting key datasets in the cloud someplace where they could be directly used in native GIS format? This is different from the idea of web services.
 - the data sets in question are enormous: terabytes per day
 - discussions of this issue are underway at NOAA and USGS, exploring various models for processing and data storage/upload/download
 - user fees for cloud use?
 - small data providers who can't afford to make their data available would benefit from a Federal solution to data storage/management
 - must be flexible since some small data providers need to host their data sets themselves, and others may want to put their data in the cloud and use our servers; we want to work toward a solution that will work for both of these types of partners as they choose to participate in the OWDI
 - the cloud option needs to be on the table because some partners won't even participate until that's an option
 - on climatedata.gov there are a lot of partners listed who can provide resources (Google, Microsoft), and those sources may be able to provide support for the OWDI, if Landsat and other large projects don't already have all the available partner resources
 - Esri is already hosting a lot of Federal data in the cloud, so this isn't an entirely new idea
 - Data in tape archives also are an issue we need to address
 - Will try to line up a speaker who has more expertise in this area, for our June or July call
 - we should also think about a software component to whatever cloud solution we come up with -- other governmental organizations (States, Tribes) could be the greatest beneficiary of this because they may not have the ability/resources to handle this on their own; if there was software that would allow them to stand up their data and products in the cloud, that would help us get data out to the world that otherwise wouldn't be shared
- Further discussion on data quality. Talk about what actions we need to take address data quality. Do we need a working group, or do we work with other ACWI committees? FGDC is very concerned that we document and publish what we're doing with regard to data quality.
 - Is there an interest in creating a new working group to address issues of data quality? Or does this issue fall under the technical work group? Or should the policy/governance issues be handled separately from the technical issues?
 - Perhaps data quality issues should be handled by Subcommittee on Ground Water (SOGW), National Water-Quality Monitoring Council (NWQMC), and other ACWI groups, rather than by SSWD. We could ask these other groups to provide assistance on these issues, and NWQMC has definitely been focusing on quality

in sensor and sampling methods; SOGW also has done considerable work that we can use. **ACTION:** Ed Clark and Wendy Norton will talk with other ACWI groups to find out where these other groups stand on this work.

- ESRI User Conference - OWDI discussion at Water Resources workshop on Sunday, July 19. Who is planning to go? Can we get presentations from one or more work groups?
 - Al Rea and Angela Adams will attend
 - **ACTION:** Steve Kopp has asked if there are additional presenters or people who are planning to attend, so please let him know if you plan to be there.
 - Ed get more info on time of the session
- OWDI Marketplace
 - Code repository
 - specifications
 - versioning
 - procedures (pseudocode or English)
 - Right now the idea of a marketplace doesn't exist in whole, the way some other aspects of the OWDI exist. The Army Corps of Engineers' [Federal support toolbox](#) is a good example that covers much of code repository, specs, versioning, and the other portions of what we think of as the marketplace/hub. The OWDI "brand" may not need to be put on a marketplace; are we talking about doing that, or is the OWDI marketplace just a concept that we're interested in? We may not need a federally sponsored repository.
 - CIDA is good at this type of thing; do they have a sense of whether these tools would be scalable? Cloud applications, desktop applications, etc ... the point is that the application has legs, NOT that the organization has legs. Being part of a "git-hub" group is less important than supporting the data and the tools that make the data useful, rather than trying to establish a branded marketplace.
 - We're pretty good at making data available; what we're less good at is interpreting the data and then making the results of that interpretation available in a way that the general public (non-scientists?) can understand.
 - A place for the private sector to collaborate -- would this be a federally funded place for private sector collaboration?
 - Data.gov is supposed to serve this purpose, but it doesn't do what we need it to do. Is there any way to kick-start data.gov for a water enterprise like OWDI? We can ask data.gov to put in patches that will let us do what we want, or we can develop our systems to enable us to resummarize our content so that it will fit into the data.gov frame, and then push data.gov to advertise the water data sets and tools.
- Ed Clark and Al Rea are trying to arrange a face-to-face meeting, as we approach our 1 year anniversary. This meeting might be in the Washington, D.C., area, or somewhere else.

Working Groups

NFIE Work Group

- June 1, the Summer Institute kicks off.
- We'll present all of this at the AWRA convention later this year.

Drought Work Group

- Meeting held last week
- Reviewed mock-up of short-term deliverable that CIDA is working on for us
- Finalizing datasets for mockup
- Initial draft of product due in July
- Discussing long-term deliverable

Spill Response Work Group

- 4/28/2015 – Spill Response System technology discussion - Dave Blodgett, Al Rea and Cindy McKay
- 5/4/2015 – Discussion on OWDI Upstream/downstream NHDPlus search for events – Al Rea, Tommy Dewald, Cindy McKay, Indus Corp.
- 5/19/2015 – Workgroup Meeting - Discussion of Al Rea's use case and the OWDI NHDPlus up/downstream search for events
- EPA Region 8 – Regional Response Team – Souris River Use Case
- EPA Region 5 – Regional Response Team – Kalamazoo River Use Case
- ICWater – Spill Backtracking and Upstream Tracing

Technology Work Group

- No meetings held.
- Members are preparing *JAWRA* draft papers and contributing to OWDI conceptual model.
- **ACTION:** Share slides with the group.

Water-Use Data Work Group

- Did not have a meeting since the last SSWD call. In the meantime, we are trying to find more information on eastern states' water use datasets, and will reconvene after the June 8th *JAWRA* article deadline.
- Wendy's one-pager is under review by the team. Will submit that soon.
- Might reach out to the Great Lakes Commission -- Great Lakes Compact calls for recurring evaluation of water withdrawal from the Lakes, and that data could help. Contact: Becky Pearson, bpearson@glc.org, 734-971-9135. POC for Great Lakes Regional Water Use Database - <http://projects.glc.org/waterusedata/>. There is a simple derived product - 2006-2011 annual water use aggregated by lake basin - available at <http://tds.glos.us/thredds/glc/wateruse.html?dataset=GLC>. which I just noticed is sorely lacking in metadata -- some background available at <http://www.glsregionalbody.org/Docs/Misc/CIA/2013%20Cumulative%20Impact%20Assessment%2012-4-13.pdf> and a nice viewer at <http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/dashboard/GLSLRCIAD/>

Thanks for this info Tad!! :) Good to know.

Next Meeting - June 26th

From Wendy: Request to the workgroup leaders that they send in materials for the workgroup web page (<http://acwi.gov/spatial/wkgroups.html>). I still have not received any materials from any of the groups except the Drought Use Case group and the Spill Response Use Case group.